

ARIZONA NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Steven Manheimer, Director
602-280-8850 or nass-az@nass.usda.gov

Issued by
USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, Arizona Field Office
230 N. 1st Avenue, Suite 303
Phoenix, Arizona 85003
Visit us online at www.nass.usda.gov/az

--

Press Release Announcement – (May 5, 2006)
-For Immediate Release-

Important Crop Survey to Begin

Phoenix, AZ – How many acres will be planted to cotton, alfalfa and corn? What impact have spring planting and growing conditions meant for American agriculture? To gather reliable, objective information, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will have their interviewers contact a sample of agricultural producers during June. NASS works with farmers and ranchers throughout the year to provide meaningful, accurate and objective statistics that serve U.S. agriculture.

There is always speculation about each new crop season. Steven Manheimer of the NASS Arizona Field Office said, "This survey is particularly vital because it will provide the first clear indications of the potential production of major commodities in 2006.

"Producers know reliable facts are the foundation for making the daily decisions that affect profits. Our timely, accurate, unbiased and dependable data remove doubt and give direction."

-More-

The up-to-date results are an unbiased snapshot of agriculture from the best source—the producers. Producers rely on the data to make production and marketing plans. The information gathered is widely valued by agriculture’s supporters, too. Producer associations, extension agents, industry analysts and Congress use the information in a variety of ways that benefit farmers.

“We safeguard the confidentiality of all survey responses,” Manheimer reminds producers. “Information from individual operations is combined with other responses to provide the important regional, State and national data.”

All agricultural statistics published by NASS are available at www.usda.gov/nass/. For more information, call 1-800-645-7286.

#